

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I support the provisions in this bill that support a second engine for the F-35.

The Air Force will soon shift its air-to-ground, air-to-air, and air-supremacy roles to the F-35, and the F-35 will eventually number more than a thousand jet fighters, or 95 percent of the fighter force structure.

To power these aircraft, the Air Force will require some 2500–3000 engines at a cost of more than \$100 billion.

We are fortunate to have two excellent engine manufacturers, Pratt Whitney and GE. Both started out as candidates for the F-35 engine.

The question now comes: Do we need and want a second engine, produced by GE?

More specifically—

Do we want to sole source, run this program out 25 years or more, without price competition?

In addition to price competition, do we want competition on innovation, reliability, and durability?

Do we want to run the operational risk of having no back-up if problems show up in one engine?

Do we want to keep competition in the defense production base?

A second engine for the F-35 makes sense and saves money.

I urge the House to leave intact the second engine provisions in the defense authorization bill before us today.

## AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azerbaijan began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

The last 19 years of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our own country with unconditional support in its anti-terrorism efforts, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and commend President Obama's nomination of Matthew Bryza to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan. I believe that Mr. Bryza has the knowledge and experience necessary to reassure our Azerbaijani friends that the United States appreciates their support and will continue to work with them to achieve peace and stability in the Caucasus. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Chair, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the Joint Strike Fighter alternative engine program, I rise today in opposition to the Pingree/Larson Amendment.

This amendment, which would redirect funding for the program, is about terminating jobs, killing competition and giving a \$100 billion monopoly to one contractor who is already \$2.5 billion (50 percent) over budget.

This amendment would add \$20 billion to the deficit by eliminating the savings GAO says will occur with competition.

Supporting this amendment means making the choice to give one company a sole source contract for the next 30 years versus having two companies compete head-to-head every year, resulting in the best price and best engine.

There was no competition for this program. The engines for every major weapons program in history have been competed—except for the Joint Strike Fighter, the largest defense program ever.

Congress is not required to give a rubber stamp to the Defense Department, which has been proven wrong in its opposition to several key programs, including development of the Predator, creation of the U.S. Special Operations Command and funding for the V-22 Osprey.

If this amendment passes, our national security will be put at grave risk, as the U.S. and Allied forces will depend entirely on one engine for 90 percent of their fighter jet fleets.

And, there will be job loss. We must maintain our support of the competitive engine program to sustain the thousands of jobs in the United States that are a result of this program.

I am pleased to join both the Armed Services Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Air & Land Forces, the Sea Power & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittees, and the Acquisition Reform Panel in opposing this amendment.

My colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee and I approved funding for the alternative engine program to continue, and the Department of Defense's own analysis states that "the estimated costs of a competitive engine acquisition strategy are projected to be approximately equivalent to a sole-source scenario." If that is the case, I am confident the benefits of a competitive engine strategy warrant continued support.

Therefore, I strongly oppose the Pingree/Larson amendment and I rise in support of keeping jobs, sustaining competition, and our country's national security.

## IN HONOR OF MAJOR RONALD WAYNE CULVER, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen, revered husband and father and one of our Nation's great heroes. On May 24, 2010, our State and Nation lost a true patriot when Major Ronald Wayne Culver,